

The Honorable John C. Stennis  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

18 February 1972

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I will be retiring from active Government service the end of this month, having completed more than forty-two years. The last twenty-five of these have been with the Central Intelligence Agency, the first seventeen having been in the Army, from which I was retired in 1947 as a result of combat disability incurred during World War II. During almost twenty of the twenty-five years with CIA, first as Deputy Director for Support and later as Executive Director-Comptroller, I have been privileged to appear before your Subcommittee with the Director to testify and furnish information about a variety of matters of importance to the Committee and the Agency. As I leave the service, I should like to tell you of the very great respect I have for you and your Subcommittee. Through all the years, the Subcommittee has exemplified the best in legislative practices in being eminently fair, completely objective, and very helpful. As professional intelligence officers, we have noted in particular your security consciousness and your spotless record in the protection of intelligence sources and methods.

I have always felt that the Agency's relationship with the Subcommittee was a very healthy one based, as it was and is, on complete candor, mutual respect, and confidence. You and the members of your Subcommittee have made a great contribution to intelligence in nurturing this Agency from its fledgling days of the late Forties to what I believe to be a mature, sophisticated, and highly professional organization today. I think the Congress and the Agency can take pride in the fact that during the past several years, despite constraints on money and manpower, the intelligence product has continually improved and to a marked degree.

It has been my privilege to serve in responsible positions on the Staff of all of the Directors of Central Intelligence since CIA became a legal entity in September of 1947. Your confidence in these men has been fully justified. I am sure you are aware of the increasing complexities and problems with which Mr. Helms has coped during his tenure. May I say that he is the most professional of them all and your confidence in him is well - placed indeed.

My thanks, Mr. Chairman, for the privilege of being associated in a small way with you and the other distinguished members of your Subcommittee in the service of our country.

Sincerely,

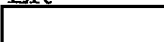
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